Executive Aroclamation State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Woonsocket, South Dakota, which was known to railroad people as "Boom-strucket" because of its early rapid growth, was platted on October 17, 1883; and,

WHEREAS, Platted on claims belonging to A.J. Gains and George Hollenbeck, the town got its name from townsite agent C.H. Prior who had lived in Woonsocket, Rhode Island; and,

WHEREAS, So accelerated was the expansion of Woonsocket that within three weeks of the platting, the town had 104 buildings and a population of 300. Two months later, the population jumped to 524, and by June of 1884, there were approximately 800 residents of this boom town; and,

WHEREAS, So popular was this young town that when the Sanborn County seat fight came to light in the fall of 1884, and Woonsocket was pitted against Letcher and Forestburg, the Infant community (less than one year old) won by a 30 percent plurality; and,

WHEREAS, The first postmaster, Mr. Rufus W. Gage, came to town on January 7, 1884, the first child in the new town was named Ralph Woonsocket Elliott, and the first public school was taught by Mr. and Mrs. Person; and,

WHEREAS, One hundred years later, this fine community still thrives, and the pride of its people will this summer be demonstrated by many extravagant festivities and celebrations:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 4, 1983, as

WOONSOCKET CENTENNIAL DAY

in South Dakota



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twentieth Day of April, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Three

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE